

ARMIJO HOUSE (Ortega House)  
301 Montano Street  
Holbrook  
Navajo County  
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-164

HABS  
ARIZ  
9-HOLB,  
2-

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Western Region  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94107

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## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### ARMIJO HOUSE (Ortega House)

HABS No. AZ-164

#### Location:

301 Montano Street, Holbrook, Navajo County, Arizona.

#### Significance:

The Armijo House is associated with the pioneering Armijo and Ortega families of Holbrook. The water tower is additionally significant as an unusual adaptation of the Second Empire style adapted to a utilitarian accessory structure.

#### Description:

The Armijo House property consists of a small, single story adobe dwelling and wood-frame water tower built on the top of a small knoll on the south side of Holbrook, Arizona. The house is a typical, simplified example of the Neoclassical style, while the water tower appears to be influenced by the Second Empire style.

The Armijo House occupies all of Block 115 of the C.F. Perkins Addition to Holbrook, Arizona, a parcel measuring 200 by 300 feet (See site plan, p. 12). While most of Holbrook lies on the north bank of the Little Colorado River, the C.F. Perkins Addition was the first subdivision south of the river. The neighborhood attracted much of the lower-income segment of Holbrook's population, and as a result the Perkins Addition was home to a great number of jerry-built shanties, tar-paper shacks, and a few more substantial structures. The Armijo House is one of the earliest, and one of the most well-built, of the homes remaining in the Perkins Addition.

The house is set to the west side of the block, where a natural knoll provides a measure of protection from flooding of the Little Colorado River. The house is oriented with the front toward Montano Street (Long Avenue) to the north. A terrace at the north side of the house is retained by a low wall of native red sandstone. The water tower is placed immediately south of the house, near the west property line. The remainder of the block is an open field. A barn once existed southeast of the house, but no trace of it exists above ground.

The house is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 30 feet wide by 50 feet deep (See floor plan, p. 13). The simple plan originally consisted of six rooms, each entered from adjacent rooms, and front and back porches. The back porch has since been enclosed.

The adobe walls are supported on a red sandstone foundation wall of coursed ashlar. They are protected from the elements by stucco sheathing. The roof is a medium-pitched hip with bellcast eaves and exposed rafter tails. The present roof sheathing is corrugated iron, but the original roofing may have been wood shingles. A hip dormer provides a central focus to the front of the house. Two brick chimneys extend above the roof near the back of the house.

Fenestration is simple, with one-over-one double-hung wood windows providing light and ventilation to each room. Two entry doors are provided from the front porch, one for each of the two north rooms. Each door is a modern replacement.

The front veranda porch is an important part of the exterior design. The red sandstone foundation walls turn outward to become cheek blocks for the sandstone steps that ascend to the porch from the terrace. Four stuccoed wood posts support the overhang of the hip roof. The center opening, through which the entry steps pass, is smaller than the flanking openings on either side. Two elements of the veranda appear to be early modifications: the low sandstone wall enclosing the porch, and the stuccoed beam line at the top of the columns. The stucco at the tops of the columns angles down, giving a chamfered appearance to each of the porch openings. Additionally, small, hanging wedge-shaped brackets of stucco bisect each of the larger porch openings, left and right. These brackets were designed to support hanging light fixtures, which have since been removed.

The interior is simple, with little adornment. Wood floors are currently covered with wall-to-wall carpeting. Interior walls are mostly of plastered adobe. The ceilings are lath and plaster over wood framing. A notable interior feature is the criss-cross design at the corners of the door casings. This design occurs throughout the interior.

Although likely built at the same time, the water tower does not match the design of the house. Its design is broken into three parts: the concrete foundation/cellar; the wood clapboard first story, which houses a storage room; and the wood-shingled mansard top story, which encloses the steel water tank. The tower is square in plan, measuring 10 feet by 10 feet, and is about 20 feet high.

The concrete cellar of the water tower is entered from the east side by descending several concrete steps between sandstone and wood-frame walls. The cellar door is missing. There are no significant features within the cellar. The main floor is enclosed with painted horizontal lap siding. The storage room is reached by way of a small wooden stair at the north side. The floor of the upper story extends out past the exterior wall about one foot, forming a narrow ledge which visually separates the main story from the upper one. The top of the platform is flashed with galvanized iron sheet metal. The walls above the platform angle inward and are sheathed in wood shingles. These walls are capped by a low-pitch hip roof with a one-foot overhang, also sheathed in wood shingles. An approx. 1250-gallon water tank within the structure is about eight feet in diameter and four feet high.

## History:

### SUMMARY

The Armijo house was constructed by Juan and Ambrosio Armijo on Block 115 in the C.F. Perkins Addition to Holbrook in 1915. This father and son lived in the house with their families until 1917 when Juan returned to the Armijo homestead in the Oak Creek Canyon area, near Sedona. Ambrosio remained in Holbrook until his father's death in 1921 when he also returned to Oak Creek Canyon. The house was then rented for many years until 1936 when Ambrosio and his wife Marcelina returned to live in the house. Marcelina died in 1942 and in 1947 Ambrosio married Lucy Ortega. Ambrosio died in 1948 and the house passed to his widow. Mrs. Ortega (Armijo) lived in the house until 1959 when she moved into town north of the Little Colorado River. She transferred ownership of the property to her son, Santos Ortega, Jr., who still owns the property. It has been used as a rental for the past thirty years.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: Holbrook, Arizona

Located in the Little Colorado River Valley near its confluence with the Rio Puerco River, Holbrook is the seat of government for Navajo County, created by the Territorial Legislature on March 21, 1895. The Little Colorado River Valley has long been a transportation route across northern Arizona, and the site of Holbrook has always figured prominently in any transportation plan. Holbrook got its start as a location of an early crossing of the Little Colorado River and Juan Padilla is credited with being the first non-native resident of the area in 1871. Holbrook was named for the chief construction engineer of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad, which began construction across Arizona in 1880. The rails reached Holbrook on September 24, 1881. The plat of the original townsite of Holbrook was filed on February 5, 1883, but it took over twenty years before the town grew large enough to expand beyond its original boundaries. In 1910, speculators added the Kempenich Addition, the Zuck Addition, the C.F. Perkins Addition, and re-platted the original townsite. Holbrook voters authorized incorporation of the Town of Holbrook in 1917. Holbrook achieved official city status on March 25, 1975.<sup>1</sup>

Hispanic residents played an important part in the early history of Holbrook, but for the most part their contributions are left out of the history books. Holbrook's first resident, Juan Padilla, was Hispanic, and through the following years Hispanics made significant contributions to the growth and development of Holbrook. Many of these Hispanic residents were descendants of early New Mexico pioneers who came west as the Arizona territory opened up to settlement after the construction of the railroad. Once in Arizona, these settlers continued the traditional pursuits of sheep ranching, agriculture, and mercantile business that they had established in New Mexico. Others worked for the railroad, although these workers frequently did not have the means or education to advance to property ownership or business success. Anglo residents tended to portray all Hispanics in the same light, and the result was a lack of recognition of Hispanic contributions. Compounding the situation was the traditional rivalry between cattle ranchers and sheep ranchers. Much of the territory around Holbrook was the property of the Aztec Land and Cattle Company, known as the Hash Knife outfit after its brand. Since many of the sheep ranchers were Hispanic, the conflict between cattle and sheep men was often played out in terms of heritage. The result of this condition is that research into the history of Holbrook's Hispanic community is difficult, a situation which is similar for Hispanic residents in many other Arizona communities.<sup>2</sup>

#### THE ARMIJO HOUSE AND THE ARMIJO FAMILY

The Armijo House is significantly associated with the Armijo family, a pioneer group of Hispanic northern Arizona farmers and ranchers. Although the Armijo family had a homestead in the Oak Creek Canyon area near Sedona and only resided in the Holbrook Armijo House sporadically, the Armijo House is the only remaining building with any significant Armijo association. The historic buildings in Oak Creek Canyon have been demolished. The Armijo House is the last standing building associated with the Armijo family, who are representative of the contributions made by Hispanic residents to Arizona's sheep ranching and agricultural history.

Juan Armijo was born in New Mexico in 1843. The Armijo family in New Mexico dates back to 1695 when Jose de Armijo and his wife Catalina Duran arrived from Zacatecas, Mexico. Although a direct link between Juan Armijo and this pioneer New Mexico family cannot be substantiated, there is little doubt that Juan was a descendent. Juan married Nepumusia Castillo and the couple had one child, a son Ambrosio born in Carrizozo, New Mexico, on April 7, 1876. By 1880, Juan, Nepumusia, and Ambrosio had settled in Springerville, Arizona, where Juan was a sheep rancher.

By 1888, the family moved to St. John's, Arizona.<sup>3</sup>

In the early 1890s, the Armijos relocated from the dry range lands of northern Arizona to the rugged upper Oak Creek Canyon near Sedona. Here the family began to carve a farm and orchard out of the rough but beautiful landscape, providing food for the miners in the copper town of Jerome and residents of the logging community of Flagstaff. On March 25, 1895, nineteen year old Ambrosio took sixteen year old Marcelina Chavez as his wife. The couple were married in an early morning ceremony by Father Queto at the Prescott Catholic Church. Marcelina was the daughter of Manuel and Victoria Chavez, another early Oak Creek Canyon homesteading family.<sup>4</sup>

In 1896, Ambrosio took over a ditch first constructed by Richard Huckaby and began to irrigate his land using water from Oak Creek. By 1900, Ambrosio had thirty acres in cultivation in Oak Creek Canyon. That same year, on November 12, Juan Armijo took out a water right filing for 100 miner's inches of water from Oak Creek for the twenty acres he had in cultivation at that time. Juan and Nepumusia took in a son and daughter from the Castillo family to live with them on the ranch by 1900.<sup>5</sup>

In the first decade of the twentieth century, Juan and Ambrosio Armijo began to take steps to obtain legal title to their acreage in Oak Creek Canyon. On July 21, 1909, Ambrosio Armijo filed his notice to make final proof on a homestead of 140 acres in the Sedona area. He received his patent on May 5, 1910. On April 24, 1913, Juan Ambrosio filed his notice of intent and on December 22, 1913 received his patent to 110 acres of land.<sup>6</sup>

With their Oak Creek Canyon holdings now secured by land patents from the U.S. government, Juan and Ambrosio Armijo looked to expand their horizons. With their homesteads established and furnishing steady crops to the booming mining community of Jerome, Juan and Ambrosio once again felt the lure of the wide open spaces of northern Arizona. In 1913 the Armijos sold their cattle to dairyman L.E. Hart and rented out their homesteads. The Armijos then moved to Holbrook and once again entered the sheep ranching business. Ambrosio took up a ranch on the south side of the Little Colorado River and started a sheep ranching operation, on today's McLaws Road. On June 22, 1914, Juan and Ambrosio purchased property in the C.F. Perkins Addition to Holbrook, consisting of Lots 1 through 10 and Lots 14 and 15 of Block 115. On August 8, Juan and Ambrosio also purchased Lots 11 through 13 and 15 through 18 in Block 115, giving them ownership of the entire block. By 1915, the Armijos completed construction of an adobe house on the property and erected a water tower to hold a tank filled by a pump from a 200-foot deep well on the property. Experienced in irrigation, the Armijos converted Block 115 into a well-kept small farm.<sup>7</sup>

Juan and Ambrosio made a quick start on establishing their sheep ranching business in northern Arizona and completing the house, but events soon took a turn for the worse. The health of Nepumusia Armijo gradually began to fail. On April 26, 1917, Juan and Ambrosio separated their land holdings in Holbrook, with Juan taking control of lots the two men had purchased together in Block 113 and Ambrosio taking ownership of the lots in Block 115. The purpose of this exchange was to keep the property of the two men separate if creditor's to Nepumusia's estate laid claim to the property. On May 30, 1917, Nepumusia died and left her portion of the community property to her son and only heir, Ambrosio. Although Juan and Ambrosio had tried before Nepumusia's death to untangle their land holdings, with the inheritance Ambrosio once again found himself owning property with his father.<sup>8</sup>

While this joint ownership was of little consequence at the time, things soon became more

complicated. On Christmas Day in 1917, Juan married for a second time, to Erinea Peralta of Holbrook. The couple were married in Winslow with Antonio and Benita Duran as witnesses. This second marriage caused a bit of friction between father and son, as Ambrosio did not take an immediate liking to his father's new wife who already had several children of her own. Juan and Erania (sometimes spelled Yrene or Erine) returned to Oak Creek Canyon where Juan took on the role of stepfather to the Peralta children. Ambrosio and Marcelina remained in Holbrook. By 1920, finding that they could not have children of their own, the couple had adopted two children Albert and Mary. They later adopted a second boy, Pete.<sup>9</sup>

Shortly after returning to Oak Creek Canyon, on May 19, 1921, Juan Armijo passed away. Observers at the time noted he was "one of the oldest and highly esteemed Mexican residents of the district." Juan's death exacerbated the tense conditions between Ambrosio and Yrene. After a dispute over his father's estate which featured a lawsuit brought by Ambrosio against Yrene to recover some money he had loaned to his father, Ambrosio ended up inheriting most of his father's property, including that in Oak Creek. Ambrosio then decided to return to Oak Creek himself to manage his orchards and fields. He rented out the Armijo House in Holbrook and once again became a resident of Oak Creek Canyon.<sup>10</sup>

The Armijo family remained in Oak Creek for the next fifteen years, keeping the homestead of Juan and Ambrosio as their primary residence. The Armijo House in Holbrook was used as a rental, and Ambrosio kept up his ranch south of Holbrook as well. Ambrosio Armijo prospered in these years, and expanded his land holdings in Oak Creek Canyon. In 1927 he added seven and 1/2 acres of land to his homestead with a second homestead patent. The ditch irrigating his lands became known as the Armijo Ditch to the residents of Oak Creek Canyon and his acreage produced bountiful crops of apples, pears, corn, grains, alfalfa, and truck crops. Ambrosio also kept cattle on the homestead. It was during these years that Ambrosio and Marcelina raised their adopted children Albert, Mary, and Pete to adulthood.<sup>11</sup>

In 1936, Marcelina's health began to fail and Ambrosio determined to return to Holbrook in the hopes that a change of climate would help her condition. In September of 1936, the Armijo family took up housekeeping in the Armijo House in Holbrook once again, splitting the house with renters for a time. The Armijos soon regained control of the entire house. Convinced that the move to northern Arizona was improving the health of Marcelina, in 1938 Ambrosio made plans to sell his property in Oak Creek Canyon. Here he ran into a slight problem, as his 1910 patent contained an error in its legal description. Ambrosio had to apply for a corrected patent to the land, which he received on January 4, 1939. Later that year, Ambrosio sold his land holdings in Oak Creek Canyon to Andrew Blackmore, a Los Angeles banker. In 1941, Blackmore sold the Armijo Ranch to Helen and Jack Frye. The land later passed through several ownership changes and is today contained within the boundaries of Red Rock State Park, owned by the Arizona State Parks Department.<sup>12</sup>

Using the proceeds of his property sale in Oak Creek Canyon, on January 10, 1940, Ambrosio Armijo purchased the Petrified Log Service Station from its builder, Santos Ortega. Located on State Route 77 south of the Little Colorado River Bridge, the station catered to tourists with its eye-catching facade of petrified logs. The building also served the needs of the local community as well, as it contained a small dance hall for parties and a grocery store for the small Hispanic community south of the river. On February 3, 1942, Ambrosio gave the property to his adopted son Pedro R. (Pete) Armijo, who owned it for the next ten years.<sup>13</sup>

Despite his high hopes that the Holbrook climate would improve his wife's health, Marcelina continued to feel worse. On July 19, 1942, she passed away after her long illness. She was buried

in the Holbrook cemetery where Ambrosio retained an adjacent plot. Sometime in 1943, Ambrosio suffered another blow. A fire roared through the Armijo House, severely scorching the interior and especially the attic rooms. Family legend has it that Ambrosio was distrustful of banks and that he kept large amounts of cash at home. For a long time after the fire Ambrosio was particularly glum and relatives surmised that his cash had gone up in flames during the fire.<sup>14</sup>

After the Second World War, Ambrosio Armijo traveled to Phoenix to help his adopted son Albert with a farming operation in the desert community. Having helped his adopted son Pete with the Petrified Log Station, Ambrosio assisted Albert in establishing a farm in the vicinity of 27th Avenue and Camelback Road. Following in his father's footsteps, in 1947 Ambrosio took Lucy Maestas Ortega as his second wife. Born in Concho, Arizona, on January 7, 1896, Lucy was the daughter of Vidal Maestas and Enemesia Sandoval Maestas. Lucy Maestas married Thomas Ortega, Jr. and had one son, Santos Ortega, Jr., named after his uncle. Tom, Jr. had died of a heart attack while travelling on February 16, 1941.<sup>15</sup>

Shortly after this marriage, tragedy struck again. On May 10, 1948, while visiting his adopted son Albert in Phoenix, Ambrosio Armijo suddenly passed away. Observers at the time noted that Ambrosio was "widely-known throughout Navajo county, was a friend to all who knew him." Friends noted that Ambrosio had a "reputation of being a fair businessman and a gentleman at all times, a good citizen." Ambrosio was buried in Holbrook cemetery next to his first wife, Marcelina.<sup>16</sup>

Lucy Ortega inherited the Armijo House on Ambrosio's death and continued to live there until 1959. In that year, Lucy moved north into Holbrook proper and she sold the property to her son Santos Ortega, Jr. Since that time, the Armijo House has been used as a rental.<sup>17</sup>

#### ENDNOTES

1. For an overview of the history of Holbrook, see Ryden Architects, A Historic Resource Survey of Holbrook, Arizona (Phoenix: Don W. Ryden, AIA/Architects, 1991), pages 27-29.
2. For a discussion of the sources available on Hispanic history in Arizona, see Ryden Architects, An Historic Building Analysis of the Elias/Rodriguez House, Tempe, Arizona (Phoenix: Don W. Ryden, AIA/Architects, 1992), page 8.
3. Fray Angelico Chavez, Origins of New Mexico Families (Santa Fe: Historical Society of New Mexico, 1954) discusses the Armijo family on pages 136-140. What little biographical information exists on Juan Armijo was obtained from brief death notices: "Juan Armijo, Pioneer, Dies at Jerome," Coconino Sun (Flagstaff Newspaper) May 27, 1921 (I, 6: 5) and "Pioneer Passes," Verde Copper News (Jerome Newspaper) May 20, 1921 (I, 8: 2). Biographical information on Ambrosio Armijo obtained from his obituary "Ambrosio Armijo Died in Phoenix, Sunday May 10," Holbrook Tribune-News May 14, 1948 (I, 4: 7). Ambrosio Armijo also left an affidavit containing biographical information, recorded July 19, 1938, in Book 172 of Deeds, pages 269-270, on file with the Yavapai County Recorder, Prescott, Arizona. The 1880 Census for Apache County lists the Armijo family in Springerville, Enumeration District 36, Sheet 5, Line 5.
4. For a description of the early Hispanic homesteaders in the Oak Creek Canyon area, see Ryden Architects, A Historic Resource Survey of Sedona, Arizona (Phoenix: Don W. Ryden, AIA/Architects, 1992), pages 24-26. The marriage of Ambrosio and Marcelina is noted in "The City

and County," Daily Arizona Journal-Miner (Prescott Newspaper) March 25, 1895 (l, 4: 1).

5. Information on the Oak Creek lands taken from Robert R. Stroud and Frank Prothero, Arizona Water Company Report on the Number of Canals and Ditches, Their Capacity, also the Acreage of Crops on the Verde River (Phoenix: Arizona Water Company, November 2, 1899), pages 8 and 14; O.A. Turney, Water Supply and Irrigation on the Verde River and Tributaries (Phoenix, 1901), pages 7 and 9; H.L. Hancock, Report on the Irrigated Lands of the Verde River and its Tributaries in 1914 (Phoenix, 1914), pages 22 and 38. Juan Armijo's water right filing was recorded November 14, 1900 in Book 3 of Mill Sites and Water Rights, pages 499-500, Yavapai County Recorder's Office, Prescott, Arizona. Information on the Castillo children from the 1900 Census for Yavapai County, Camp Verde Precinct, Enumeration District 68, Sheet 2, Line 31.
6. Phoenix file 04406 for Ambrosio Armijo and Phoenix file 04407 for Juan Armijo, both on file with the Arizona State Office of the Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix, Arizona.
7. Information on the 1913 move to Holbrook is contained in Albert E. Thompson, "History of Homesteads of Upper Oak Creek," in Those Early Days: Oldtimers' Memoirs, edited by Sedona Westerners Book Committee (Sedona: Verde Independent, 1968), page 17. Property acquisitions in Holbrook were recorded on June 22, 1914 in Book 7 of Deeds page, 212 end on August 8, 1914 in Book 7 of Deeds, page 257, Navajo County Recorder's Office, Holbrook, Arizona.
8. Real estate transactions between Juan and Ambrosio Armijo were recorded on April 26, 1917 in Book 8 of Deeds, pages 295 and 305. An obituary of Nepumusia Armijo could not be located; information on her death comes from Navajo County Probate Case #205, petition filed December 19, 1921, microfilm copy at the Department of Library, Archives and Public Records, Phoenix, Arizona.
9. Navajo County marriage certificate C-32, recorded on December 25, 1917 in Book 3 of Marriages, page 32, microfilm copy on file with the Arizona State Department of Library, Archives and Public Records, Phoenix, Arizona. Residence information obtained from the 1920 census, Navajo County enumeration District 87, Sheet 12, Line 23 for Ambrosio and Yavapai County Enumeration District 100, Sheet 1, Line 44 for Juan. Information on family relationships provided in an interview with Vicky Garcia, Albert's daughter (Ambrosio's grandchild).
10. Juan Armijo death notices: "Juan Armijo, Pioneer, Dies at Jerome," Coconino Sun (Flagstaff Newspaper) May 27, 1921 (l, 6: 5) and "Pioneer Passes," Verde Copper News (Jerome Newspaper) May 20, 1921 (l, 8: 2). On the dispute between Ambrosio and Yrene, see Navajo County Civil Case #1328B (1921), microfilm copy at the Arizona State Department of Library, Archives and Public Records, Phoenix, Arizona and Notice of Lis Pendens recorded on December 20, 1921 in Book 2 of Lis Pendens, page 381, Yavapai County Recorder's Office, Prescott, Arizona.
11. Land patent information from Phoenix file 060737 on file with the Arizona State Office of the Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix. Information on crops from affidavits of Helen Frye, Letitia Nuñez, George Hodges, and Thomas Edward Wallace on file with the Arizona Department of Water Resources, Phoenix, Arizona.
12. Information on the move to Holbrook obtained in an interview with Willie Baca, Pate Armijo's brother. Patent information contained in file Phoenix 04406, on file with the Arizona State Office of the Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix. The sale of the ranch is documented in Albert E. Thompson, "History of Homesteads of Upper Oak Creek," in Those Early Days: Oldtimers' Memoirs,



edited by Sedona Westerners Book Committee (Sedona: Verde Independent, 1968), page 17 and in the affidavit of Helen Frye dated October 19, 1978, on file with the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

13. The Armijo family interest in the Petrified Log Station is found in deeds recorded on January 10, 1940 in Book 28 of Deeds, Page 371 and recorded on February 3, 1942 in Book 30 of Deeds, Page 318, on file with the Navajo County Recorder's Office, Holbrook, Arizona. For more information on the Petrified Log Station, see the HABS report prepared by Ryden Architects, 1993.
14. Marcelina Armijo's obituary was published as "Funeral Services Held Wednesday for Mrs. A. Armijo," Holbrook Tribune-News July 24, 1942 (I, 4: 5). Information on the fire obtained in interviews with Manuel Armijo, son of Ambrosio's adopted son Albert, and Vicky Garcia, Albert Armijo's daughter.
15. Information on the Phoenix farm obtained in an interview with Vicky Garcia. Ortega family history obtained through interviews with Santos Ortega, Jr. For Thomas Ortega, Jr., see his obituary "Ortega's Funeral Tuesday," Holbrook Tribune-News, February 21, 1941 (I, 1: 5). Lucy M. Ortega's obituary is "Lucy M. Ortega," Arizona Republic, February 11, 1974 (C, 5: 7).
16. "Ambrosio Armijo died in Phoenix, Sunday May 10th," Holbrook Tribune-News, May 14, 1948 (I, 4: 7).
17. Navajo County Superior Court Probate Case #2088 contains the "Decree of Distribution of Estate," transferring the property in 1949. The deed to Santos Ortega, Jr. was recorded on January 13, 1959 in Book 11 of Deeds, Page 65, Navajo County Recorder's Office.

#### Sources:

Research into the history of the Armijo House concentrated on primary sources, as references to the Armijo and Ortega families in secondary works are rare. Of these primary sources, interviews with descendants of the Armijo and Ortega families proved very valuable. Family members were gracious of their time and generous with their information. Specific citations to reference materials are included in the endnotes. This section gives a summary of the repositories consulted and is followed by a bibliography.

#### Arizona Department of Library, Archives, and Public Records

The archives section on the fourth floor contains Navajo County court records and marriage records which provided some information on the Armijo family. The research collection contains newspapers which were useful for obtaining biographical information. Census records on microfilm proved very valuable in placing specific individuals at the property. Holbrook city directories helped to establish ownership and property use at specific points in time.

#### Arizona Department of Water Resources

Provided information on the history of the Armijo Homestead in Oak Creek Canyon which contained important biographical data.

Arizona Department of Transportation

Bettina Rosenberg provided copies of historical reports on a bridge replacement project in the vicinity of the Armijo House.

Arizona State Historic Preservation Office

Provided copies of historical information on properties in Holbrook.

Navajo County

The Navajo County Recorder's Office provided information about property transactions which helped to trace ownership. The Assessor's Office houses some property ownership information as well as property valuations. The Clerk of the Court provided probate records.

Yavapai County

The Recorder's Office provided information on property transactions and water right information.

Bureau of Land Management

Contains homestead patent information in the Arizona State Office.

Navajo County Historical Society, Holbrook Branch

Ms. Garnette Franklin provided photographs of the property and historical information on the Armijo family.

Arizona Historical Society, Tucson

Robert Fishar provided leads on sources of biographical information.

Sharlot Hall Museum, Prescott

Michael Wurtz provided biographical information.

City of Holbrook

Provided information on burials in Holbrook Cemetery which assisted in obtaining dates for obituary research.

Arizona State University

The Arizona Historical Foundation contains some census information and biographical references. The Arizona Collection in Hayden Library has some biographical information.

Interviews

John Colligan, Las Cruces (information on Armijo genealogy)  
Santos Ortega, Jr., (Lucy Ortega's son)  
Willie Baca (Pate Armijo's brother)  
Vicky Garcia (Ambrosio Armijo's granddaughter)  
Natalie Sanchez (Ambrosio Armijo's granddaughter)  
Manuel Armijo (Ambrosio Armijo's grandson)  
Anita Scarbrough (Santos Ortega's daughter)  
Louis Maestas (Lucy Ortega's nephew)

Adelle Mescal (Santos Ortega's daughter)

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